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LETTER DATED 10 JANUARY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GUATEMALA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith an urgent letter of today's date addressed to you by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guatemala (see annex), in which he refers to the matter that is to be dealt with today in the Security Council.

In accordance with the request contained herein, I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Julio Armando MARTINI HERRERA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 10 January 1997 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guatemala addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the informal consultations, that the Security Council is currently conducting under your able presidency on the reports of 17, 23 and 30 December 1996 (S/1996/1045 and Add.1 and 2) in which the Secretary-General requested the Council to authorize the attachment to the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and of Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA) of a military component to verify implementation of the military aspects of the Agreement on a Firm and Lasting Peace signed in Guatemala City on 29 December 1996.

It may be useful for the members of the Security Council to know that in recent weeks separate consultations have taken place in both New York and Geneva between high-level delegations of the People's Republic of China and Guatemala. These consultations have addressed issues arising from the Secretary-General's reports referred to above, as well as the bilateral relations between the two countries. The purpose of this letter is to convey to you and, through you, to the other members of the Security Council the positions taken by the Guatemalan delegations in those consultations, in the hope that this may assist the Security Council in its work.

I wish to refer to the favourable results that we are all hoping for on the verification mission requested by both the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) to the Secretary-General for demobilization and disarmament of former guerrilla combatants involved in the Guatemalan armed conflict. The Guatemalan delegations have reaffirmed the conviction of the Government of Guatemala that in accordance with the principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations all countries should refrain from taking any action that may affect the territorial integrity or political independence of other countries and should not intervene in matters of their internal jurisdiction. Furthermore, the Guatemalan delegations have again confirmed their Government's full support for the Declaration of Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation Among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, which asserts that any attempt aimed at the disruption of the national unity, territorial integrity or political independence of a State is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter.

The Guatemalan delegations have stated that these principles will guide Guatemala's future actions at the United Nations with regard to initiatives related to Taiwan. Guatemala respects the contents of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). Guatemala has never intended to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries and fully supports the peaceful settlement of disputes. It is precisely as a result of this conviction that Guatemala has successfully completed a peace agreement to put an end to its internal conflict,

an agreement that requires for its implementation the peacekeeping mission requested from the Security Council.

With regard to attendance at the signature ceremony in Guatemala City on 29 December of the Agreement on a Firm and Lasting Peace, the Government of Guatemala did not single out Taiwan or its Foreign Minister for invitation to the ceremony. On the contrary, the Government addressed invitations of a general nature to all the Governments with which it has diplomatic relations and left it to each of those Governments to decide the level at which it would be represented. Had circumstances permitted, the Government of Guatemala would have wanted to invite to this historic event representatives of additional countries, including all the members of the Security Council.

I would also like to convey to you the favourable and constructive opinion that our delegation in New York has reported on the bilateral conversations initiated by our delegation in Geneva with representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China. The Government of Guatemala is satisfied at the progress that has been made in the consultations in Geneva. It has the intention of continuing the dialogue initiated there on a number of bilateral issues, including trade, which is in perfect agreement with our foreign policy agenda, which will seek, after overcoming our internal armed confrontation, to pursue a better understanding and strengthening of our international relations, thus contributing to a better understanding among peoples, including a brighter future for China and Guatemala.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Eduardo STEIN
Minister for Foreign Affairs